Parade 9/30/73

THE VIETNAM TOLL

The longest war in U.S. history --the Vietnam war--will probably go down as one of the most, if not the most, controversial wars in American history.

The pollsters from the Gallup organization asked a cross section of the public this question:

"Now that the U.S. has reached a peace settlement in Vietnam, do you think it was a mistake for the U.S. to intervene there with military forces in the first place?"

The replies:

Yes--66 percent

No--30 percent

No opinion--4 percent

The Vietnam war not only cost this country $140 billion plus 50,000 dead, and 340,000 wounded--but it caused three successive federal administrations to lie constantly to the American people. Moreover, it cost the government the faith and trust of American youth.

If the Vietnam-Cambodian war has taught this nation anything, it is that U.S. Presidents must not lie to the people, and that the people must vote into office a Congress which will not so easily abrogate its constitutional power to declare war.